

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 226438
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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
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WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY 0616

S E C R E T STATE 226438

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR ONLY FROM HOLBROOKE AND OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, VN, TH

SUBJECT: TALKS WITH KRIANGSAK
REF: BANGKOK 25550

1. THE LINE YOUTOOK#ITH KRIANGSAK WAS JUST RIGHT. DAVE
NEWSOM HAS ASKED TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR CONGRATULATIONS ON
AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION. WE HOPE THAT KRIANGSAK GOT THE
MESSAGE CLEARLY CONVEYED BY YOUR SOCRATIC APPROACH TO THE
IDEA OF SRV MEMBERSHIP IN ASEAN. FOR HIM TO MAKE SUCH A
PROPOSAL WOULD, IN OUR JUDGMENT, HAVE ALL OF THE NEGATIVE
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EFFECTS YOU FLAGGED FOR HIS CONSIDERATION. WE WILL BE
INTERESTED IN WHAT ACTUALLY EMERGES FROM THE VISIT, AND
HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY REPORTS ON THE POSI-
TIONS WHICH SITTHI AND ARUN HAVE BEEN TAKING ON HOW TO
HANDLE PHAM VAN DONG'S VISIT.

2. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THE USSR IS

SEEKING TO EXPAND ITS INFLUENCE IN SEASIA, BOTH BY ASSO-
CIATING ITSELF WITH THE NEWFOUND SRV WOOING OF ASEAN, THE
U.S., ETC., AND BY STEPPING UP BILATERAL ACTIVITIES. THIS
IS MOST NOTABLE WHERE THE PHILIPPINES IS CONCERNED BUT WE
SUSPECT THAT IT MAY ALSO BE TRUE ALTHOUGH LESS OBVIOUS IN
OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES. MAINTAINING ASEAN SOLIDARITY AND
ENGAGING IN CLOSER ASEAN CONSULTATIONS ON SUCH KEY
POLITICAL ISSUES AS POSITIONS TOWARD THE SRV, THE USSR,

ETC., IS THUS OF EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE IN AVOIDING THE
TEMPTATION THAT ONE OR MORE ASEAN MEMBERS MIGHT HAVE
INDIVIDUALLY TO SUCCUMB TO BLANDISHMENTS.

3. I AM REPEATING ON A VERY RESTRICTED BASIS TO OUR
OTHER ASEAN AMBASSADORS THE REPORT OF YOUR TALK WITH
KRIANGSAK AND THIS TELEGRAM.

CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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